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SECURITY INFORMATION

MONTHLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT
FOR MONTH OF
October, 1951

1. CRYPTONYM BGFIEND	2. DIVISION OR BRANCH EE-1	3. COUNTRY(S) Albania	4. ESTIMATED COMPLETION <table style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 50%;">PERCENT</td><td style="width: 50%;">DATE</td></tr></table>		PERCENT	DATE						
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9. NAME OF CASE OFFICER		ROOM NO.	EXTENSION	SIGNATURE								
10. FACTS, EVALUATION AND COMMENT: (Use additional plain sheet if necessary)												

21 Oct 1951

A. OPERATIONS

(1) INFILTRATIONS

(a) The objectives of the BGFIEND infiltration program is to organize resistance within Albania and to establish safehouses, safe areas and escape routes. Our agents are further instructed to maintain communication with headquarters in Athens through the use of wireless and couriers.

(b) A total of nine agents were infiltrated into Albania during the month of October. One team, consisting of three men one of which was a W/T operator, was dropped at the mouth of the Shkumbi River on the night of 14 October. During the same flight, a four-man team with a W/T operator was dropped near the town of Peshkopija. On the night of the 15th, a W/T operator and helper were parachuted to the two-man team near the town of Kukes in northern Albania. The original two agents in this team were dropped on 19 May 1951. This brought the total number of OPC agents in Albania to 15, organized into four teams. Radio Albania announced on the 24th of October that an OPC team operating near Skutari in the north had been annihilated. In the same broadcast, it was claimed that the leader near the town named Peshkopija had been killed. No W/T contact has yet been made with any of the three teams possessing W/T sets. To the best of our knowledge, the team near Kukes and the team near the mouth of the Shkumbi are still intact although radio Tirana announced that six agents in addition to those identified by name had been killed.

(c) Since the infiltration of the Kukes team in May, 1951, four supply missions have provided a total of 71 containers of arms, ammunition and supplies to that team. Two secret writing messages have been received from the team, indicating that it was well-received by the local populace, many of whom joined it to form a resistance organization. The team reports that the supplies dropped to it were distributed among its adherents and were gratefully received.

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(d) To recapitulate OPC infiltration operations to date, there follows a listing of the disposition of OPC agents:

Dead, Confirmed

Fidas Veli
Riza Khemal
Rifat Zyberi
Ded Hili
Azis Rusta
Hamid Toshi
Hysen Salku

Dead, Presumed

Zethan Daci

Status much in doubt

Hysen Bajram
Ramazan Dalip
Abdullah Sejullah
Hajrullah Terpeza

Status unknown

Faik Dalip
Dule Koci
Muredin Lusha
Kalem Xhebexhiu
Dilaver Kacuqi

Defected to Yugoslavia

Adem Gjuraq
Sali Dalliu
Halil Morguti
Miftar Planeja
Ramadan Cenaj
Rexhan Berisha

Convicted as Spies

Ilias Toptani
Selim Daci
Muhamet Hoxha
Kasem Shehu

Exfiltrated

Xhevit Hysen
Muco Hasani
Meleq Kaptelli
Teki Sulaq
Hamit Matiani
Lek Martini
Feta Xhika
Naun Sula
Starafin Anastos Sula
Abedin Kotori

Alive In Albania

Vata Tahir
Peposh Liman

(e) To our knowledge, the amount of material captured and destroyed during these operations is negligible.

(f) From the above, it is apparent that the increased tempo of operations in the summer and fall of 1951 has been effectively countered by Albanian security forces. This situation may be attributed to one or a combination of the following:

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(1) Penetration of the NCFA, the [] or the OPC training facilities in Germany.

(2) A more effective Albanian security force than has been indicated in intelligence reports to date.

(3) A need for more thorough agent training.

(4) A need for higher calibre agents.

Recent adverse developments in the infiltration program have necessitated a complete review of present methods and objectives. The details of discussions in Athens on this subject between [] BGFEND project chief, are not yet available. We have an indication, however, that plans have been made to completely divorce the project's operational planning from NCFA influence and assistance. It has further been decided that future agent training will be effected at a different location and that agents already trained but not infiltrated will be disposed of as a security precaution.

(2) EXFILTRATION

No OPC agents have exfiltrated during the month of October.

(3) SUPPLY DROPS

26 containers of arms, ammunition and supplies were dropped to the Kukës team together with the W/T operator and helper on 15 October.

(4) TRAINING

We have received word from our German training station that six W/T trainees will be ready for infiltration at various times between now and the end of the year. No guerrilla warfare training is now in progress.

(5) RECRUITING

23 Albanians recruited as potential agents were moved from Rome to the Albanian Guard Company in Germany on 11 October. The Guard Company is used as a holding area for OPC agent material.

Secondly, this phase of the project is designed to provide a hope of liberation and to contribute to the instability of the communist regime in Albania by the air dropping of leaflets over the country, and by clandestine broadcasts made in the name of the NCFA. These broadcasts originate at the OPC broadcasting studio located outside of Athens. Since the inception of the P/W phase of the project, approximately 3,000,000 leaflets have been dropped over Albania and 1,250,000 copies of Shqipëria have been published. In addition, 40,000 copies of two miniature editions of Shqipëria have been printed for mailing to communist officials inside Albania and for dropping over the country by covert aircraft. The leaflet drop schedule has been

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B. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

(1) The objectives of this phase of the project are two fold: first, to unite exiled Albanians in the cause of freedom for their country through the publishing in New York of an Albanian language newspaper distributed to exiled Albanians throughout the world. Secondly, this phase of the project is designed to provide a hope of liberation and to contribute to the instability of the communist regime in Albania by the air dropping of leaflets over the country, and by clandestine broadcasts made in the name of the NCFA. These broadcasts originate at the OPC broadcasting studio located outside of Athens. Since the inception of the P/W phase of the project, approximately 3,000,000 leaflets have been dropped over Albania and 1,250,000 copies of Shqiperia have been published. In addition, 40,000 copies of two miniature editions of Shqiperia have been printed for mailing to communist officials inside Albania and for dropping over the country by covert aircraft. The leaflet drop schedule has been

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erratic due to a ban imposed by the Department of State of approximately four months duration. Nine leaflet drops have been made by the joint British-American operation against Albania since November, 1950. Shqiperia has been published on a regular bi-monthly basis since the appearance of its first edition in September, 1950. Most leaflets have been dropped over urban targets. Among the countries to which Shqiperia is sent are: Australia, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France and, of course, the United States. No specific group of Albanians has been singled out for special consideration. Reported reaction to leaflet drops is generally favorable. Interrogation reports of Albanian exfiltrates indicates that some decided to leave the country in order to join the forces of the National Committee for a Free Albania. Some advised that they obtained knowledge of the Committee from leaflets dropped from the sky. Reaction to Shqiperia has been mixed although there has been general agreement that it was not as effective a propaganda organ as the various party newspapers published by Albanians in exile. To rectify this situation, the format of Shqiperia has recently been changed and prominent members of the NCFA have devoted considerable time and effort to improving the content of the paper. It is now generally acknowledged that Shqiperia has greatly improved since its inception last year.

(2) During the month of October, two editions of Shqiperia were published on schedule. No leaflet drops were made. The OPC radio station, the Voice of Free Albania, has been broadcasting nightly. It is currently stressing a cable sent by Hasan Dosti, president of the NCFA, to Enver Hoxer offering food and supplies to the destitute populace of Albania. This cable and its attending publicity reports the initial move in the propaganda supply phase of BCFIEND operations. Hoxer's refusal to accept this aid, tacit or otherwise, is now being stressed by the Voice of Free Albania. Before the end of the year, 30,000 one-pound bags of white flour will be dropped from covert aircraft over urban areas of Albania. Each bag will contain a leaflet quoting the text of Dosti's cable to Hoxer and stating that although the communist regime has refused cooperation to the NCFA in its attempts to relieve the suffering of Albanians, the committee will not be denied its desire to assist its countrymen.

C. INTELLIGENCE

The current spy trials in Tirana have come to a close after convictions of all the men indicted. Of the convicted, four were OPC agents. Their sentences are unknown.

D. ADMINISTRATION

Two secretaries and an intelligence office GS-7 were dispatched to the field during the last month. An instructor at the covert school in Germany was returned to Washington for termination, because of his uncooperative attitude.

A joint BCFIEND/VALUABLE meeting was held in Rome. This meeting was attended by [redacted] and all the field officers of project BCFIEND. Pertinent decisions arrived at during this meeting will be reported at a later date.

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During this meeting the British Representatives announced that United Kingdom policy toward Albania had crystalized. They stated that the Foreign Office definitely favors a Free and Independent Albania and that the Department of State had been so advised. They indicated that the new British Ambassador to Yugoslavia had been instructed to inform Tito of Britain's attitude toward Albania and to request information concerning the objectives of the Prizren League. The British feel that if the aims of this Yugoslav sponsored Albanian Committee are compatible with their own, some degree of cooperation with Yugoslavia may be desirable.

The British feel that presentation of Anglo-American views should be made in a coordinated manner, and feel the NCFA should restrain from propaganda that would make later cooperation with the Prizren League impossible.

The British have informed the Italians on a service level of this; whereupon, the Italians expressed relief that no partition of Albania is envisaged; further, they declared complete satisfaction if the problem is handled by the United States and Britain.

BOFIEND/VALUABLE discussions lead to the conclusion that a decision to mount a major operation must rest largely on three points:

Jugoslav position of benevolent neutrality or active cooperation,

Views of United States and British Joint Chiefs of Staff, and

Estimate of whether Yugoslav position of benevolent neutrality is a sufficient factor to ensure success.

A State Department policy paper on Albania is anticipated soon. It is assumed that reaction to the British proposal will be reflected in this paper.

E. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hasan Dosti, President of the NCFA, has received another approach from the Yugoslav sponsored Albanian committee suggesting closer cooperation between the two groups. In the absence of a directive covering U. S. policy on this matter, Dosti has been directed to maintain a non-committal contact with the Yugoslavs until the nature of their approach is clearly defined.

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